

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1603

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HEINRICH) at 4 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

SUPPORTING BACKCOUNTRY AIRSTRIPS AND RECREATIONAL AVIATION

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1473) supporting backcountry airstrips and recreational aviation, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1473

Whereas recreational aviation represents a significant portion of the Nation's aviation activity;

Whereas recreational aviators utilize backcountry airstrips as access points for a variety of activities;

Whereas backcountry airstrips provide multiple benefits to the general public, including search and rescue, fire management, research, disaster relief, and wildlife management benefits;

Whereas recreational aviation helps State economies by providing efficient access to recreational activities for visitors;

Whereas backcountry airstrips serve as emergency landing sites for aircraft in the event of mechanical problems or inclement weather; and

Whereas backcountry airstrips provide for dispersed recreational activity and act as internal trailheads within backcountry areas: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes the value of recreational aviation and backcountry airstrips located on the Nation's public lands and commends aviators and the various private organizations that maintain these airstrips for public use.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from

Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Hawaii.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Res. 1473.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Hawaii?

There was no objection.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H. Res. 1473, as amended, introduced by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. REHBERG), which expresses support for backcountry airstrips and recreational aviation.

A backcountry airstrip is an unattended landing area in a location that provides access to remote, undeveloped rural areas by aircraft, usually airplanes. Backcountry airstrips provide benefits to the general public, including performing research and rescue operations, fire management, research and aerial mapping, and disaster relief. These airstrips allow tourists to access remote Federal lands that, in turn, helps to support local economies and small businesses. Also, in the event of mechanical problems or inclement weather, backcountry airstrips serve as emergency landing sites when airports are out of reach.

H. Res. 1473 recognizes the value of recreational aviation and backcountry airstrips located on our Nation's public lands. In addition, it commends aviators and the various private organizations that maintain these airstrips for public use. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the author of the resolution currently before us, our colleague from the State of Montana, Representative DENNIS REHBERG.

Mr. REHBERG. Thank you, Mr. PETRI.

Mr. Speaker, I want to voice my support for House Resolution 1473, supporting recreational aviation and backcountry airstrips on America's public lands.

This resolution is the fruit of a bipartisan effort. I could not have drafted this legislation without the support of my colleagues from Idaho, Mr. SIMPSON and Mr. MINNICK, and the co-chairs of the House General Aviation Caucus, Mr. EHLERS and Mr. BOYD.

One hundred years ago, this resolution might have been about supporting horses. Aviation has become as important to the modern West as horses were to the early explorers, trappers and prospectors. That is because the vast majority of Montana's 147,000 square miles aren't easily reached by roads—we've got a lot of dirt between light

bulbs. And like the horse opened new lands in 1910, aviation is critical to access today. That is why backcountry airstrips are such an important part of our way of life.

There are too many benefits to list them all. They enable search and rescue, fire management, research, disaster relief and wildlife management. In the event of mechanical problems or inclement weather, they serve as emergency landing sites when larger airports are out of reach. They allow public access to some of the most beautiful, remote Federal lands in America, regardless of one's physical ability, and they serve as efficient access points for tourists, who in turn contribute to local economies and small businesses. That means jobs. Too often, however, these airstrips are targeted for closure by the Federal Government or well-funded special interest groups, or simply ignored by bureaucrats in Washington, D.C.

Please join the bipartisan support for this measure and vote for House Resolution 1473.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I support the resolution before us, H. Res. 1473, recognizing the value of recreational aviation in backcountry airstrips.

Aviation provides access, as we've heard, to the most remote and scenic areas of our national landscape, and not just for recreational users. Backcountry airstrips also provide access for those who do not have the physical ability to get to these areas any other way. The airstrips also serve an important safety function as emergency landing sites in the event of severe weather or another emergency. Sustaining these airstrips is critical to preserving safe flight and access to the American wilderness. It is important to promote and maintain the public use of backcountry airstrips for future generations. Additionally, we should be proud of the individuals and private organizations that donate their time and resources in order to sustain these airstrips for public use and benefit.

Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution and urge its passage by the House today.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1473, as amended, introduced by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. REHBERG), which expresses support for backcountry airstrips. Generally speaking, a backcountry airstrip is an unattended landing area in a location that provides access to remote, undeveloped rural areas by aircraft, usually airplanes.

Backcountry airstrips are a part of life for many Americans, especially in the West. They provide countless benefits to the general public, including search and rescue, fire management, research, disaster relief and wildlife management. They also allow public access to some of the most beautiful, remote federal lands in America, as well as providing a means of access to remote areas for physically disadvantaged individuals who might not otherwise be able to get to remote locations for leisure.

Backcountry airstrips serve as efficient access points for tourists, who in turn contribute to local economies and small businesses. More importantly, in the event of mechanical problems or inclement weather, they serve as emergency landing sites when larger airports are out of reach.

Many backcountry airstrips are privately owned. In addition, several state aviation offices own and operate backcountry airstrips, and many airstrips are owned by public agencies involved in land management, such as the Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Reclamation.

H. Res. 1473 recognizes the value of recreational aviation and backcountry airstrips located on the nation's public lands and commends aviators and the various organizations that maintain these airstrips for public use.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of H. Res. 1473, a resolution supporting recreational aviation and backcountry airstrips on America's public lands.

Backcountry airstrips are a part of life for many Americans, especially in the West. They provide countless benefits to the general public, including search and rescue, fire management, research, disaster relief and wildlife management. They also allow public access to some of the most beautiful, remote federal lands in America regardless of one's physical ability to otherwise enjoy the backcountry.

Backcountry airstrips serve as efficient access points for tourists, who in turn contribute to local economies and small businesses. More importantly, in the event of mechanical problems or inclement weather, they serve as emergency landing sites when larger airports are out of reach. Too often, however, these airstrips are targeted for closure by the federal government or well-funded special interest groups, or simply ignored by bureaucrats in Washington, DC.

During a time when our lands are under threat from drought, insect infestation and wildfire, and when our economy continues to struggle, backcountry airstrips serve a valuable role for land managers and visitors alike. Please join me in recognizing the value of recreational aviation and backcountry airstrips, in addition to commending aviators and the various private organizations that maintain these airstrips for public use.

□ 1610

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, for all of the reasons articulated, I again encourage my colleagues to support this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1473, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF 19TH AMENDMENT

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1375) recognizing the 90th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1375

Whereas full participatory rights by women are vital to democracy in the United States;

Whereas the right to vote of all women in the United States was not guaranteed for 144 years after the Declaration of Independence was signed;

Whereas the Women's Rights Convention was held in Seneca Falls, New York, in July 1848, sparking a decades-long struggle by women's rights pioneers to gain the right to vote;

Whereas a constitutional amendment granting women's suffrage nationwide was first introduced in the United States Congress in January 1878;

Whereas in 1919, the 66th Congress of the United States passed a resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution extending the right of suffrage to women;

Whereas the aforesaid amendment was then ratified by the Legislatures of the States of Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Kansas, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Texas, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Montana, Nebraska, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Utah, California, Maine, North Dakota, South Dakota, Colorado, Kentucky, Rhode Island, Oregon, Indiana, Wyoming, Nevada, New Jersey, Idaho, Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, West Virginia, Washington, and Tennessee; and

Whereas, on August 18, 1920, the Tennessee General Assembly voted for ratification by a one-vote margin, passing the amendment in Nashville, Tennessee, becoming the 36th and final of the three-fourths of States needed to ratify the aforesaid amendment, entering it into the Constitution: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the 90th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution;

(2) honors the contributions and achievements of women in United States politics; and

(3) reaffirms its commitment to pursuing policies that achieve true political and social equality for women, commensurate with their role in life in the United States and society.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) and the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COHEN. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to add extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. COHEN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

House Resolution 1375, introduced by the Honorable JIM COOPER of Tennessee, recognizes the 90th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. The 19th Amendment, of course, is the Amendment that gave women the right to vote in this United States, and it was not until 1920 that women got that right to vote.

We didn't start off as a perfect Union. It's taken a lot of time, and we're still working toward becoming that perfect Union.

The 19th Amendment was ratified with the perfect 36th State, which happened to be Tennessee, the last State that could make it by three-quarters of the States needed. There were 48 at the time. Thirty-five had done it. The rest had said they wouldn't. Tennessee was on the spot, and it became the perfect 36th and gave women the right to vote.

It was an historic vote that took place in the Tennessee State capitol. Probably the most historic vote that's ever occurred in that capitol. One of which, a bas-relief on the wall, which I worked on getting placed there, commemorates that event when that vote took place.

One of my relatives, Mr. Joe Hanover, managed the bill in the House. And the Senate, of which I was a member, and Lady BLACKBURN, the Congresswoman on the other side, was also a member of that esteemed body, the State Senate in Tennessee voted with overwhelming numbers to approve the resolution. It was in the House where sometimes they have problems—unlike what we experience here in Washington—where they had difficulty getting the votes together.

And it was about an even vote until the last minute. And a Republican from upper east Tennessee named Harry Burn got a missive from his mother that said, "Harry, do the right thing." And Harry did the right thing, and he cast that vote and it passed by one vote. So women have the right to vote because of the perfect 36th, the State of Tennessee in 1920, August of that year. And it was by one vote.

So it's an important story not only of how far this country has come, because our Constitution, as great as it was, didn't give women the right to vote. It permitted slavery, didn't give women the right to vote, and a lot of other problems. And it took a lot of efforts and civil rights and women's rights and human rights and all to bring us to where we're getting today. We still have a ways to go. But it also says how important one vote is, because one vote made that difference.

Prior to the ratification of the 19th Amendment, only a handful of States allowed women to vote at all, and that was in certain elections. But even those modest gains were the product of decades of struggle by women's suffrage supporters. There were early events, such as the Women's Rights Convention convened in Seneca Falls,